

SECRET

Question 12.

An explanation of why the Pueblo did not carry heavier weapons or was not provided with a military escort while off North Korean waters.

Answer

The USS Pueblo was designed exclusively for intelligence collection and not for combat engagements. Therefore the only significant armament on the ship was two fifty-caliber machineguns. Ships engaged in intelligence collection have become an accepted part of security operations by the United States and other countries. These intelligence collection platforms typically have operated without escort, and largely as a result of Soviet operations, have become a familiar and accepted type of naval activity.

There have been many episodes of harassment by Soviet and Communist Chinese ships and aircraft during the past year in the Sea of Japan and East China Sea. The North Koreans had not previously engaged in any harassment of a U.S. water-borne intelligence collector.

Despite this record of Communist harassment, the provision of an escort, or of air cover, would have (1) been a departure from previous practice by this country and other nations, (2) been inconsistent with the mission of the Pueblo, and (3) increased the possibility of North Korean or Soviet misunderstanding and miscalculation.

State Department review completed

SECRET

Question 12a.

Full instructions relating to the conduct of the Pueblo's officers in the event of attack including instructions regarding the destruction of equipment or scuttling the vessel.

Answer.

There follow below excerpts from the Pueblo's Sailing Order and Operation Order relating to the Commanding Officer's instructions in the event of attack. The only copy of the complete destruct instructions for the Pueblo was that on board the ship. If the Committee desires, the Department of State will request the Department of Defense to provide the Committee with a briefing on the procedures which we believe the crew of the Pueblo followed, based on the instructions in force on the Pueblo's sister ship, the USS Banner. Since the Pueblo was not provided with any means to effect rapid scuttling, there were no instructions to the Commanding Officer on this subject.

SECRET

SECRET

The Sailing Order directed the ship to maintain defensive armament in a stowed or covered condition so as not to elicit interest from surveying/surveyed units and to employ defensive armament "only in cases where threat to survival is obvious." (Complete Sailing Order attached in response to Question 5.)

Special instructions in the Operation Order included, inter alia:

a. Hostile, Harassing or Embarrassing Tactics. The success of this intelligence collection operation depends to some extent upon the reaction of Soviet/Bloc forces to the presence. The Commanding Officer must use astute judgment in recognizing the purpose of the reaction generated by this operation and be alert to hostile overtures by air, surface or sub-surface units. It is most unlikely that military forces would initiate an attack upon an unarmed non-combatant naval vessel in international waters; however, attempts to provoke by the employment of tactics which harass or embarrass the operations are highly probable, including request or invitation to leave the area. Therefore, it is vitally important that a positive reaction to the presence is anticipated and that the Commanding Officer be cognizant of the proper procedures to be employed in the variety of situations that may be encountered. Provided a ship's actions remain prudent, non-hostile and non-provocative, peacetime operations in international waters are legal in all respects. When confronted by non-friendly military forces, no action shall be taken that would give the impression that the United States acknowledges the authority of any nation to control international waters. Only at such time as convinced that persistence in staying in a particular area constitutes an actual danger to the ship, then and only then, will the immediate area be cleared. Such departure, when taken, shall not be in accordance with any direction or request received from the non-friendly unit. Non-acknowledgment, repeated questioning of any signal received, counter signals of non-understanding, or illogical or inappropriate replies can be utilized to exhaust and discourage the other unit in his efforts to force a withdrawal. Retirement, under any circumstances, should be slow and gradual and at a significant variance with any course prescribed by the non-friendly unit. The non-friendly unit should be made to realize that operations will be continued in the immediate adjacent sea area. No actions shall be taken that could be mistaken as harassing or hostile, or that would embarrass the non-friendly unit. The International Rules of the Road shall be scrupulously observed at all times.

SECRET

-2-

b. Attempts to Board and Search. If attempts are made to board and search in International Waters, radical maneuvering to circumvent such attempts should be employed. The application of force through the use of arms is authorized only as a last resort in self defense. Navy Regulations, Articles 0614 and 0730 apply.

c. Navy Regulations State:

(1) Article 0614: Use of Force Against a Friendly State.

"1. The use of force by United States naval personnel against a friendly foreign state, or against anyone within the territories thereof, is illegal.

"2. The right of self-preservation, however, is a right which belongs to states as well as to individuals, and in the case of states it includes the protection of the state, its honor, and its possessions, and the lives and property of its citizens against arbitrary violence, actual or impending, whereby the state or its citizens may suffer irreparable injury. The conditions calling for the application of the right of self-preservation cannot be defined beforehand, but must be left to the sound judgment of responsible officers, who are to perform their duties in this respect with all possible care and forbearance. In no case shall force be exercised in time of peace otherwise than as an application of the right of self-preservation as above defined. It must be used only as a last resort, and then only to the extent which is absolutely necessary to accomplish the end required. It can never be exercised with a view to inflicting punishment for acts already committed."

(2) Article 0730: Search not Permitted.

"The commanding officer shall not permit his command to be searched by any person representing a foreign state nor permit any of the personnel under his command to be removed from the command by such person, so long as he has the power to resist."

SECRET

SECRET

Question 12b. Full description of all intelligence equipment aboard the Pueblo and an estimate of how much was captured.

Answer. It will not be possible to estimate how much of the Pueblo's intelligence equipment and printed material was captured or its condition at the time of capture until the Pueblo's crew is recovered. We do know that at about 230430Z the Pueblo reported "We are holding emergency destruction." At about 230532Z the Pueblo transmitted that she was going off the air and "destroy this gear." It is apparent that during this period of an hour or so the officers and men of the Pueblo destroyed much of the classified material aboard. However, moments before the above final transmission the Pueblo had said: "DESTRUOKION OF PUB MAY HAVE BEEN (garble, presumably word was "ineffective") SUSPEOT (presumably "suspect") SEVERAL WILL BE COMPROMISE." Since the seizure, the North Koreans have published photographs of the Pueblo's log and several other navigation documents as well as one classified telegram, so it is obvious that the destruction operation was, in fact, incomplete.

If the Committee desires a technical briefing on the classified equipment and publications on board the Pueblo, the Department of State will discuss with the agencies concerned how the Committee's desire might be met.

SECRET

SECRET

Question 12c.

A full description of the skills, training and affiliation of all personnel serving on board the USS PUEBLO. As a corollary to this, were the U.S. Navy ratings of most of the men a convenient means of disguising their actual employment by another organization or agency?

How many of the personnel on board had Korean language skills, and/or had served previously in the Republic of Korea?

Answer

Of the 83 personnel on board, 6 were U.S. Navy officer, 73 were enlisted men of the U.S. Navy, two were enlisted men of the U.S. Marine Corps and two were civilian oceanographers employed by the Navy Oceanographic Office. None of these were in any sense employed by "another organization or agency."

A description of the skills and training of the officers and men serving on PUEBLO follows:

CDR Lloyd Bucher

Attended: Amphibious Warfare Indoctrination Course
Submarine School
CIC Officers School
Two weeks at Naval Amphibious Training Unit,
Coronado, for training

Qualified: Submariner

Lt. Edward R. Murphy

Attended: Officer Candidate School
Fleet Sonar School Key West (Special Officers Course
J-00-551)
Destroyer School, Fleet Training Center, Newport, R. I.

Lt. Stephen R. Harris

Attended: NROTC Harvard University
Communications School, New port, Rhode Island (8 wks)
Russian Language Training (Defense Language Institute
East Coast - 36 wks)

SECRET

SECRET

2

Qualified: Russian Linguist

LTJG Frederick Schumacher

Attended: Officer Candidate School
Communications School, Newport, Rhode Island
(8 wks)

ENS Timothy L. Harris

Attended: NABTC Pensacola - AVROC II Training
NABTC Pensacola - AVROC I Training
Naval Training Center San Diego - 4 wks
Storekeeper School
FLTASWSCOL - 3 days Emergency Shiphandling
Course
Naval Station San Diego - 1 wk Basic Cryptography
1 wk RPS Course

CWO3 Lacy

Attended: FTC San Diego Prospective Engineers Course -
6 wks
GCA Engineman School, Olathe, Kansas - 4 mos

Served: Naval Advisory Group ROK Navy at Chinhae, Korea -
June 1953 - April 1954

There is attached the list, which was released to the press January 24, of enlisted personnel and civilians aboard the Pueblo. This list is complete except for two names, one withheld because of difficulty in locating the next-of-kin, the other withheld at the specific request of the next-of-kin. There follows a description of their qualifications and duties by category.

Boatswain's Mate (BM) Personnel:

BM's aboard a ship like Pueblo maintain and preserve the topside areas of the ship, exclusive of antennas and electronic equipment. They maintain and operate all ground tackle, boats, and rigging found on the ship. The BM's stand underway sea-manship watches and train non-rated personnel in topside watch standing. These watches include: lookout, helmsman, lee helmsmen, messengers, and sound-powered phone talkers.

SECRET

SECRET

3

Gunner's Mate Guns (GMG) Personnel:

GMG's are trained to operate, maintain and repair guns, gun mounts, turrets, rocket launchers, projectors, associated handling equipment and small arms; make detailed electrical, electronic, hydraulic and mechanical casualty analyses; maintain and repair electric, electronic, hydraulic and mechanical systems and servosystems in guns, gun mounts, gun turrets, rocket launchers, projectors and associated handling equipment.

Quartermaster (QM) Personnel:

QM's assist the Navigator in all phases of the ship's navigation and piloting. They maintain all navigational equipment and publications, exclusive of any electronic equipment. They actively assist the Navigator in piloting and make routine sightings, recordings, and minor computations. The Quartermaster's notebook is maintained at the conning location of the ship, usually the bridge, and is the official record of the ship's movements, orders to helm and engines, unusual sightings and all noteworthy observations. This "log", as it is called, is the responsibility of the Quartermaster and it becomes a critically important document in any grounding, collision, or similar incident.

Signalmen (SM) Personnel:

SM's are responsible for the visual signaling sent to and received from a ship. They send messages by flashing light, semaphore, and flag hoist in the exact text with which they are provided, and they report incoming messages to the Officer of the Deck, Commanding Officer, Executive Officer or Communications Officer in the exact text that they are received. Signalmen are responsible for displaying the national ensign and other flags as appropriate.

Radiomen (RM) Personnel:

Radiomen are trained to transmit, receive, log, route, file, and maintain security of messages in accordance with existing regulations, instruction, and procedures. They operate typewriter and teletype-writer equipment; tune radio transmitters and receivers; and operate and perform operational and preventive maintenance on, and locate the more common failures in radio equipment, including associated frequency shift keyers, converters, motors, motor generators and power supplies; and radiotelephone and other assigned communications equipment.

SECRET

SECRET

4

Electronics Technician (ET) Personnel:

Electronics Technicians are trained to maintain, repair, calibrate, align and adjust electronic equipment used for communication, detection, tracking, recognition and identification, aids to navigation, electronic warfare, and radiax.

Communications Technician (CT) Personnel:

CT's are trained to perform a variety of tasks and functions relating to the field of communications and electromagnetic phenomena. These include the operation and maintenance of various types of communications equipments, research and development in naval communications related systems including the preparation of research and interpretive reports on communication material, communications security, and issuing, stowing and accounting for the classified publications and devices necessary to support the Navy's mission. Training received by the CT's on board Pueblo, subsequent to their recruit training, was conducted at various Navy and other Armed Forces training centers, and was in consonance with their rating in all instances.

Interior Communications Electrician (IC) Personnel:

IC's are trained to maintain and repair interior communications (IC) systems, gyro compass systems, amplified and unamplified voice systems and related equipment; and stand IC and gyro compass watches.

Electrician's Mate (EM) Personnel:

EM's are trained to perform a variety of tasks and functions relating to the field of electrical power generation and distribution aboard U.S. Naval vessels and stations. These include the operation and maintenance of generators, switchboards, and electrical control equipment; maintaining and repairing power and lighting circuits, electrical fixtures, motors, and other electrical equipment; testing for short circuits, grounds, or other casualties; and repairing and rebuilding electrical equipment.

SECRET

SECRET

5

Engineman (EN) Personnel:

Enginemen are trained to perform a variety of tasks and functions relative to the operation, maintenance, and repair of internal combustion engines and auxiliary equipment. Included in the list of equipment maintained are main propulsion, auxiliary and emergency diesel and gasoline engines, related propulsion plant drive and supporting components, auxiliary boilers and ancillary systems, and various auxiliary installations including air conditioning, refrigeration, hydraulic and housekeeping equipment.

Yeoman (YN) Personnel:

The yeoman acts as the principal administrative assistant to the Executive Officer and the Personnel Officer. In this capacity he performs a wide variety of tasks which include:

- a. Preparation and typing of routine correspondence and reports.
- b. Typing of correspondence and reports drafted by the Ship's Officers.
- c. Maintenance of all officer and enlisted service records.
- d. Preparation and submission of officer and enlisted personnel diaries.
- e. Maintenance of Navy and DOD classified (CONFIDENTIAL) and unclassified directive files.
- f. Maintenance of correspondence files.
- g. Maintenance of report tickler file.
- h. Sorting and routing of incoming official mail.

Storekeeper (SK) Personnel:

Personnel in the SK rating are responsible for the procurement, receipt, stowage, issue and transfer of all materials for the command to which attached with the exception of ammunition and medical supplies. They are responsible for the inventory of all materials under the custody of the Supply Officer based upon their specific job assignment within the Department. Additionally, they maintain detailed records relating to expenditure of OPTAR funds, maintain commissary and ships stores records and submit applicable reports and returns. Storekeepers are trained in class "A" schools for basic supply procedures and class "C" schools for training of a more technical nature. On-the-job training is utilized to its fullest extent.

SECRET

SECRET

6

Commissaryman (CS) Personnel:

CS's are trained to perform the basic functions required of personnel in the Food Service Division of any ship. This basically requires knowledge of food preparation, sanitation, and duties connected with insuring that adequate provisions are on hand to maintain food service operations without benefit of restocking for extended periods of time. CS's are often trained subsequent to recruit training, at Navy "A" and "B" schools or achieve proficiency in the food service area as a result of in-service training.

Hospital Corpsmen (HM) Personnel:

The HM aboard Pueblo is qualified for independent duty, which means that he serves a command where a medical doctor is not immediately available. His primary duties include routine treatment of minor illness and injury, treatment of major illness and injury until more extensive medical assistance becomes available, all phases of preventive medicine, routine inoculations, first aid training of the crew, processing of deceased personnel, and administration of the ship's Medical Department. In order to perform these assignments he holds routine treatment hours, routine inspection of the ship and personnel, and is on call for emergencies at all times.

Photographer's Mate (PH) Personnel:

Photographer's Mates are trained to record actual and simulated battle operations; make pictorial records of historical and newsworthy events aboard ship and ashore; expose and process light-sensitive negative and positive material; arrange, compose, and illuminate photographic subjects, make finished prints, mosaics, and strip photographs; inspect and maintain cameras and camera control equipment, and related photographic equipment and accessories; and maintain associated photographic files, records, and supplies. In general, accomplish the entire spectrum of photographic work requested by the naval service.

Steward (SD/TN) Personnel:

SD's are trained to perform numerous tasks and functions relative to the proper operation and administration of an officers' mess. In general this involves the proper preparation and serving of meals, the upkeep and maintenance of officers'

SECRET

SECRET

7

staterooms and related areas. Training received by Stewards on board USS Pueblo, subsequent to their recruit training, was acquired at Steward Class "A" schools.

Seaman (SN):

Primary duties of a seaman include line handling and upkeep of deck surfaces. He performs, under supervision, deck seamanship and cargo handling and prepares himself for advancement to petty officer status.

Fireman (FN):

Primary duties of a fireman include maintenance of fire room and engine room spaces. He performs, under supervision, mechanical repair to machinery required to propel the ship, assists in maintaining interior communication equipment, and prepares himself for advancement to petty officer status.

U.S. Marine Corps Personnel:

These men were temporarily assigned to duty in Pueblo to augment the capability of that unit to perform its assigned mission. Their skills and training were similar to those of the Communications Technician (CT) personnel on board.

CWO Lacy served in Korea, as noted above, in the period 1953-1954. Additionally, two of the EN personnel and the YN were authorized to wear the Korean Service medal, for service in that theatre in the time frame 1950-1954. One of the CS personnel had served in Korea as an enlisted member of the U.S. Army. None of these personnel were qualified in the Korean language.

The two U.S. Marine Corps personnel, noted in paragraphs 2 and 3 supra, are qualified Korean linguists, although neither had served previously in the Republic of Korea. In the interest of the men themselves, should this information not yet be known to their captors, it is recommended that the fact that they are Korean linguists not be divulged. These two men are the only personnel on board the Pueblo trained in the Korean language.

SECRET